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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL PURSUANT TO SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 845 (1993)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3243rd meeting on 18 June 1993 the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 845 (1993) by which, inter alia, the Council:

> "...
>
> "Recalling its resolution 817 (1993) of 7 April 1993, in which it urged Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to continue to cooperate with the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia in order to arrive at a speedy settlement of their difference, ...
>
> "2. Urges the parties to continue their efforts under the auspices of the Secretary-General to arrive at a speedy settlement of the remaining issues between them;
>
> "3. Requests the Secretary-General to keep the Council informed on the progress of these further efforts, the objective of which is to resolve the difference between the two parties before the commencement of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, and to report to the Council on their outcome in good time, and decides to resume consideration of the matter in the light of the report."

2. On adoption of resolution 845 (1993) I asked Mr. Cyrus Vance, former Co-Chairman of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, to continue his mission of good offices. On 15 July I informed the Security Council that Mr. Vance had accepted my request, and that he would begin his assignment on 1 August 1993. 1/

II. REVIEW OF DISCUSSIONS

3. Since undertaking his current assignment, Mr. Vance has held a series of separate meetings with the parties which led to their first direct meeting under his auspices. In accordance with the terms of resolution 845 (1993) the

proposals contained in annex V of the Report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council pursuant to resolution 817 (1993), 2/ which contained a draft Treaty Confirming the Existing Frontier and Establishing Measures for Confidence Building, Friendship and Neighbourly Cooperation proposed by the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia on 14 May 1993, served as a basis for these discussions.

4. On 11 and 12 August Mr. Vance met with the Foreign Minister of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Stevo Crvenkovski, and the former Foreign Minister Mr. Denko Maleski. On 22 August he met with a delegation of Greece led by Ambassador George D. Papoulias, Special Envoy. On 23 August he met with a delegation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia led by Ambassador Ivan Tosevski, Special Envoy of the President.

5. Following these separate meetings with the two sides, the parties, represented by Ambassador Tosevski and Ambassador Papoulias and their delegations, met for the first time together for direct discussions in Mr. Vance's presence on 23 August.

6. The direct discussions focused on Mr. Vance's proposed schedule for ongoing, direct talks at New York under his auspices. He proposed that continuous, direct and high-level discussions begin on 28 September 1993. In the separate meetings and in their direct discussions, both sides expressed strong support for this proposal and assured Mr. Vance that they did so with the full confidence that it was acceptable to the leadership at the highest levels of their Governments. The parties also approved a joint statement which was released immediately to the press at United Nations Headquarters (annex I).

7. The direct meeting on 23 August took place in a cordial and cooperative atmosphere. Both sides welcomed this "new phase" in the effort to resolve their remaining differences which they hoped would lead to a "new era" in their relations. Pending the commencement of ongoing, direct talks, both delegations reserved their positions as reflected in the statement by the Government of Greece 3/ and in the letter of the President of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the Secretary-General dated 29 May 1993. 4/

III. OBSERVATIONS

8. While it has not proved possible to resolve the difference between the two parties before the commencement of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, as called for in resolution 845 (1993), their direct meeting in the presence of Mr. Vance and their agreement to enter into ongoing, direct discussions under his auspices demonstrate the desire on both sides to come to a resolution of the differences between them. Normalization of relations between these two States would contribute to peace and stability in the region.

9. As members of the Council will be aware, on 9 September the Prime Minister of Greece announced the dissolution of Parliament. Elections have been called for 10 October. The Greek authorities have said that this development will not affect the direct talks which will take place as scheduled at the end of September.

10. Mr. Vance and I continue to stand ready to assist the parties in their efforts to resolve their difference. In the meantime, I strongly urge both sides to continue their own efforts towards building mutual confidence and to refrain from any action which might contribute to tension between them.

Notes

1/ S/26088.

2/ S/25855.

3/ S/25855/Add.1.

4/ S/25855/Add.2.

Annex

JOINT STATEMENT

[By the delegations of Greece and of the
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia]

On 23 August 1993 delegations of Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, headed respectively by Ambassador George D. Papoulias, Special Envoy, and Ambassador Ivan Tosevski, Special Envoy, met together at New York under the good offices of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Cyrus R. Vance. At Mr. Vance's suggestion, which both parties warmly welcomed, they have agreed to commence direct discussions on a continuing basis in Mr. Vance's presence at New York on 28 September 1993, to be followed in due course by a visit of Mr. Vance to Athens and Skopje. These direct and continuous discussions will mark a new phase in the effort to resolve the differences between the parties, in accordance with Security Council resolution 845 (1993).

Pending the opening of the discussions on 28 September, both parties reserve their positions, as stated in United Nations documents S/25855/Add.1 and S/25855/Add.2.

The parties wish to express their deep appreciation to Mr. Vance for his tireless efforts in pursuing his mission of good offices.

New York City, 23 August 1993